

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~A circuit~~ Circuit configuration, comprising ~~in particular for identifying error situations in interconnected partial systems for voltage generation in a fuel cell system, with~~

- an electrical signal line loop,
- several partial systems connected thereto, which evaluate the state of the signal line loop, wherein a first selectable switching means is looped in between a first end of the signal line loop and a first voltage connection and a second selectable switching means is looped in between a second end of the signal line loop and a second voltage connection and wherein a first impedance is switched parallel to the first switching means and a second impedance is switched parallel to the second switching means ; and

- a selection unit for selecting the first and the second switching means.

2. (cancelled)

3. **(previously presented)** Circuit configuration according to claim 1, characterised in that the first voltage connection is a supply voltage connection for the partial systems.

4. **(previously presented)** Circuit configuration according to claim 1, characterised in that the second voltage connection is a ground connection.

5. **(previously presented)** Circuit configuration according to claim 1, characterised in that the first switching means is a transistor.

6. **(previously presented)** Circuit configuration according to claim 1, characterised in that the second switching means is a transistor.

7. **(previously presented)** Circuit configuration according to claim 5, characterised in that the first and the second transistor are transistors complementary to one another.

8. **(previously presented)** Circuit configuration according to claim 2, characterised in that the first and the second impedance are ohmic resistors.

9. **(previously presented)** Circuit configuration according to claim 1, characterised in that the partial systems are connected to the signal line loop with high resistivity.

10. **(previously presented)** Circuit configuration according to claim 1, characterised in that the signal line loop is looped through the partial systems.

11. (currently amended) Circuit configuration according to claim 1, characterised in that the partial systems have means for interrupting the signal line loop ~~depending on their functional stage~~ .

12. (previously presented) Method for identifying error situations of an electrical signal line loop with several partial systems connected thereto, in particular partial systems for voltage generation in a fuel cell system, characterised by the steps:

- charging a first end of the signal line loop with a first voltage of a first voltage connection and connecting a second end of the signal line loop to a second voltage connection via second impedance,
- alternating with this, connecting the first end to the first voltage connection via a first impedance and charging the second end with the second voltage of the second voltage connection; and
- measuring and evaluating the signal course on the signal line loop to identify the error situation.

13. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, characterised in that, during evaluation of the signal course is detected which partial systems constantly measure the first voltage, which partial systems measure an undefined voltage and which partial systems constantly measure the second voltage and in that short-circuits or short-circuits to ground and/or

interruptions of the signal line loop are ascertained and/or located as a function of the voltages measured by the individual partial systems.

14. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, characterised in that, during evaluation of the signal course, an error is identified if at least one partial system measures a DC voltage.

15. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, characterized in that, during evaluation of the signal course, a short-circuit of the signal line loop with the first voltage connection is identified if all the partial systems measure a DC voltage with the level of the first voltage connection.

16. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, characterised in that, during evaluation of the signal course, a short-circuit of the signal line loop with the second voltage connection is identified if all the partial systems measure a DC voltage with the level of the second voltage connection.

17. (previously presented) Method according to claims claim 12, characterised in that, during evaluation of the signal course, an interruption at a location on the signal line loop is identified if partial systems on one side of the location constantly measure the first voltage and partial systems on the other side of the location constantly measure the second voltage.